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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Radio Service

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

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MAR 1938
U. S. Department of Agriculture

FARM NEWS DIGEST

Sat. March 3.

(NOT FOR PUBLICATION)

ANNOUNCEMENT: Each week this Station presents the Farm News Digest prepared for us by the United States Department of Agriculture. This digest not only gives the latest findings and activities of the Department scientists, but also gives practical hints of use on the farm.

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Department of Agriculture inspectors have been stationed at San Francisco, Salt Lake City, Kansas City, Minneapolis, Chicago, and Washington, D. C., to protect buyers of alfalfa seed, clover seed, and seed corn against misrepresentation as to the origin of any lot of seed. Sixty-one dealers in field seeds who handle about 90 per cent of the commercial seed supply of the United States, have been enrolled in the new service and have been authorized by the Department to issue certificates stating the origin of the seed has been verified by the Department of Agriculture inspectors. The certificate covers origin only. There is no Government guarantee as to germination, purity or variety.

American Forest Week, the nation-wide call to all citizens to give thought to the protection and development of our great forest resources, will be celebrated this year throughout the United States during the week of April 22 to April 28. At the same time, Canada will also celebrate its "Save the Forests" Week.

Although the subject of forestry covers a wide field and the development of America's forests presents many problems, the principal ideas which will be emphasized during the week this year are the protection of the forests from fire and other devastation; the more general practice of farm forestry and industrial forestry; and the reforestation of cut-over, burned-over, and idle lands which are now making no contribution to the wealth or future timber supply of the country. It will be pointed out that farm forestry offers many farmers a profitable use for their poorer land acreage, a paying crop of timber, and a means of diversifying their crops.

Turpentine operators, distilling an average of more than 150 barrels of crude gum a week, are being advised by Department engineers of the advantages of converting fire stills, of the type now generally used in turpentine production, into efficient stills of a steam type.

The wood of many standing trees of western red cedar in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia, is severely injured by flattened oval worm holes which render it unfit for the higher grade uses. These worm holes are caused by the flat-headed borer of a brilliant greenish beetle. The beetle lays its eggs on the wood of scars on the trunk or branches of standing trees. The borers hatching from the eggs mine up and down through the wood of the trunk until they get full grown which takes about three years. The borers then transform to beetles. Apparently the worm holes do not seriously injure cedar timber for use as fencing, sills, posts, and poles but they do make it worthless for shingles, cooperage, shipbuilding, and other purposes where tight or unblemished timber is needed.

The white pine blister rust quarantine has been amended to include the State of Idaho and four counties in Oregon in the territory designated as infected. This extension is based on infections recently discovered on currant and gooseberry leaves within the designated area.

The rice industry in the United States is lucky. Unlike most staple crops, rice has no insect enemy of major importance. That's probably because rice fields are kept under water from about two weeks after the plants have come through the soil until the rice is ready for harvesting. There are, however, a number of insect pests that lower the yield materially or injure the quality of the grain produced. It pays to keep those insects under control. How that can be done is explained in Farmers' Bulletin No. 1543 on "Insects Injurious to the Rice Crop" just issued by the Department.

But not all insects are pests. There are the bees, for example. And speaking of bees, you all know that comb honey is fragile. You have to use a good bit of care in shipping it. Most of the comb honey shipped in carload lots, if it is carefully packed in the car, is in fairly good condition when it reaches the railroad station to which it is consigned. The big loss comes in shipping comb honey in small lots or in rehandling and trucking it from the car to the broker and retailer. Much of that loss can be prevented by the use of better cases and better methods of packing. But this whole question as well as the rules for grading are included in the new Circular 24 on United States Grades, Color Standards, and Packing Requirements for Honey.

Honey, maple sugar, sirup, nuts, mushrooms, milk, cream, butter, meats, eggs, chickens, vegetables, and fruits, are a few of the things being marketed these days by parcel post. That Farmers' Bulletin No. 1551 on Marketing Farm Produce by Parcel Post will tell you more about that.

And speaking about chickens and eggs, it will soon be hatching time. Whether you hatch or whether you buy baby chicks, you should have the brooders ready for them when they arrive. The most favorable conditions of brooding are provided by proper temperature, according to the age of the chicks and climatic conditions; plenty of room, not more than about 350 chicks in one brooder house; good ventilation, and clean houses and soil. Complete details about Incubation and Brooding of Chickens, however, are contained in Farmers' Bulletin No. 1538.

Now just a word to you farmers about the dairy herd. After the heifer calf has reached six months of age, feeding and caring for her are comparatively simple matters. Even so, many heifers do not get the feed and attention they should get. Since the heifer does not yield an income until she has freshened, you should feed her liberally in order that she may develop fast and be bred for freshening at the normal age for the breed. Simple feeding rules are briefly discussed in the Department of Agriculture's Leaflet Number 14, on "Raising the Dairy Heifer."

Someone has asked why parasites of domestic animals are getting more troublesome than they used to be. Most livestock parasites are spread by worm eggs or young in the manure.

Increased land values call for more stock and better stock per acre. More stock per acre means more manure per acre. More manure per acre means more parasites per acre. More parasites per acre means greater certainty of infection and greater infection per animal. Greater infection per animal means more worm material for any given amount of manure. That means more infection per acre. And so it goes; animal parasites thrive and multiply on prosperity.

Farmers' elevators as a whole are in good financial condition nowdays. Eighty-three percent of the farmers' elevators last season had financial surpluses, while but 17 per cent reported deficits. The 3,331 farmers' elevators reporting to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics handled 500,000,000 bushels of wheat, corn, rye, and other grains during the 1926-27 marketing season. That grain had a sales value of $460,000,000.

The United States Civil Service Commission has announced an examination for Junior Bacteriologist for Food Products at a salary of $1,860. Examinations have also been announced for Junior Agronomist, Junior Animal Husbandman in beef cattle investigations, Junior Animal Husbandman in meat investigations, Junior Animal Husbandman in sheep investigations, Junior Animal Husbandman in wool investigations, Junior Horticulturist, Junior Mycologist,

Junior Nematologist, Junior Pathologist, Junior Pathologist in Plant Quarantine Inspection, Junior Physiologist, Junior Pomologist, Junior Poultry Husbandman, and Junior Seed Botanist. Applications for these jobs must be on file with the Civil Service Commission at Washington not later than March 10. Further information can be obtained from the Commission.

ANNOUNCEMENT: New bulletins of the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced today in the Weekly News Digest may be obtained by those interested through Station _____. Just write us, giving the number of the bulletin and we will transmit the request to the Department. For listeners' benefit we will again read the numbers and titles of the new bulletins. Got a pencil handy? All right, here they are:

For rice growers: Farmers' Bulletin, Number 1-5-4-3, title: "Insects Injurious to the Rice Crop."

For beekeepers: Circular 24. Title: "United States Grades, Color, Standards, and Packing Requirements of Honey."

For farmers and others interested in marketing by parcel post: Farmers' Bulletin Number 1-5-5-1. Title: "Marketing Farm Produce by Parcel Post."

For poultry keepers: Farmers' Bulletin Number 1-5-3-8. Title: "Incubation and Brooding of Chickens."

For dairymen and farmers keeping milch cattle: Leaflet Number 14. Title: "Raising the Dairy Heifer."

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Radio Service

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

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MAR 7 1928
U.S. Department of Agriculture

FARM NEWS DIGEST

Sat. Mar. 10, 1928.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

ANNOUNCEMENT: Each week this Station presents the Farm News Digest prepared for us by the United States Department of Agriculture. This digest gives the latest findings and activities of the Department scientists. In it you will find hints of practical use on your own farm.

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The Department of Agriculture has made a study of the time farmers work in producing various crops in various parts of the country. Counting a day's work for a man or a horse as ten hours, in the North it takes 11 days work for a man and 10 days for a horse to raise one acre of potatoes. To raise an acre of potatoes in the South it takes 13 days for a man and 7 days for a horse. One of the crops with the heaviest demand for labor is onion growing in Ohio. If grown from seed and sold in bunches an acre of onions in Ohio takes 149 man-days and 10 horse-days. Growing from sets instead of seed saves 56 man-days. Texas onions, sold by the crate, are more economical of labor. They take 68 days for a man and 14 for a horse per acre.

You can't tell whether a farm is making money simply by the way it looks. Appearances are sometimes deceptive. A farm can't properly be called successful, unless it pays a fair rate of interest on the capital, returns fair wages for the farmer's labor, and, at the same time, maintains or increases the fertility of the soil. But the trouble is that most farmers have no handy way of telling just how good or how poor their business really is. However, after analyzing thousands of farm records, federal agricultural economists have prepared Farmers Bulletin No. 1139. It includes a series of blanks for making a financial analysis of the farm business and tells how to do it.

Fewer farmers are now leaving the farms for the cities. More farmers are leaving the cities and going back to the farm. Estimates are that 1,978,000 persons left farms in the United States last year. But 1,374,000 persons moved from cities to farms during that time; so the net decrease in farm population was 604,000. That is considerably less than the decline in each of the two previous years. It is estimated that 87 per cent of the persons leaving the cities for the farms had had farm experience.

Dupont Circle

Wed., Jan. 10, 1962.

TOP OF HILL TOP

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The Forest Service experiments in range management have shown the need for conservative stocking of the range. The number of head of stock put on a range should be based on the forage produced on that range during an average year. The operator shouldn't stock so as to use all the feed, but leave a little over as insurance against unforseen conditions during the year and as a small supply to carry over into next year in case of drought. Stockmen have hesitated to let surplus feed produced in an unusually good year be unused. Efforts to use it by permanent stock have usually resulted in their eating the reserve that should be carried over. However, a number of stockmen in the Jornada Range Reserve region in New Mexico have solved the problem by using the surplus to pasture idle work stock and dry dairy cows from near-by irrigated districts through the fall and winter.

More than two billion dollars worth of plant food is wasted every year by the washing away of farm soils in the United States, it is estimated. That's more than twenty times the value of all the plant food taken from the soils by the growing crops.

One way to save soil is shown in the new educational motion picture film released by the Department, and entitled "Saving Soil by Terracing." The pictures were taken in Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina and apply to that region. Another film issued by the Department, shows the dangers of burning brush and how they can be avoided. Tuberculosis of poultry is the subject of still another Department movie. Mid-western poultrymen will be especially interested in this one. Poultry T.B. also spreads to hogs and often causes heavy losses to owners.

The new United States Rabbit Experiment Station was recently opened at Fontana, California. This station's mission is to develop reliable information about the best methods of breeding, feeding, and housing rabbits. Rabbit diseases will also be studied and the new station is expected to be a great help to the fast growing rabbit meat and fur industry.

Government plant breeders have found indications that bigger yields can be produced from hybrid corn varieties which are crosses of carefully selected selfed strains. But the seed of the high-yielding hybrids must be produced anew each year. The commercial concerns can't supply enough crossed seed for the whole country. Individual farmers in different sections could specialize in the production of the crossed

seed for sale, or a group of farmers could cooperate in the production of crossed seed for their own use. Very few crosses have yet been tested thoroughly enough, however, to warrant their recommendation for commercial planting as yet. The theory of corn breeding on which this new work will be based is discussed in Department Bulletin No. 1489 on "Corn-Breeding."

Another interesting possibility is the growing of sugar beet seed in New Mexico, in spite of the fact that all attempts to raise sugar beets as a commercial crop have failed. Even now, on account of the curly top disease, there seems to be no possibility of commercial beet growing in areas such as the Rio Grande Valley until resistant or disease-tolerant varieties are developed, and these do not yet exist. But five years of experimentation have shown that the curly-top disease can be almost entirely avoided by late summer and fall plantings, for seed stock in southern New Mexico. This may be significant not only in reducing the cost of seed production, but in making practical quantity production in the United States of seed of desirable strains that may be obtained as a result of breeding for disease resistance.

President Coolidge in his proclamation of Forest Week for April 22 to 28, said in part: "We cannot permanently abuse our forests with impunity. The soil is the ultimate source of all our wealth and of life itself. One-fourth of our American soil is best suited for forests. Much of this land is already idle. More of it is being made idle by destructive logging and fire. Yet we cannot safely permit our forest land to lie fallow and useless any more than we can permit our farms and factories to lie idle."

And by the way, we failed to mention, that the Department has a movie film on "The Forest and Health" which depicts the importance of our national forests for recreational purposes.

Leaflet No. 13, just issued by the Department presents methods of control and eradication of Sheep and Goat Lice.

The Civil Service has announced an examination for Agricultural Editor at $3,000 a year. Applications must be on file with the Commission not later than March 27. Information in regard to this examination may be obtained from the Civil Service Commission, Washington, D.C.

ANNOUNCEMENT: For the benefit of those who may wish some of the bulletins mentioned in this news digest, we will repeat the numbers and titles:

Sheep and Goat Lice	Leaflet No. 13.
Corn-Breeding	Department Bulletin No. 1489.
Analyzing the Farm Business	Farmers' Bulletin 1139.

These publications may be obtained through application to this station.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE — Radio Service — OFFICE OF INFORMATION

FARM NEWS DIGEST — Sat., March 17, 1928.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

ANNOUNCEMENT: Each week this Station presents the Farm News Digest prepared for us by the United States Department of Agriculture. This digest not only gives the latest findings and activities of the Department scientists,, but also gives practical hints of use on the farm.

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Here's an opportunity for American wool growers. World production of wool has not kept up with demand. Today wool stocks are low. Apparently there is no surplus of wool anywhere in the world. Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa have reached the limit of their production. Now then, if American wool growers will breed sheep so as to produce wool uniformly, instead of producing one kind of wool one year and another the following year; if they will prepare wool so as to command the most competition for it; and if they will market it as efficiently as growers of Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa, they can put their business on the best basis it has ever been. Australian growers have saved from four to six cents a pound by proper preparation of the wool for market. And they've saved another four cents a pound by the system of marketing. In America, 400 dealers handle just about a third as much wool as the 25 concerns which handle the big Australian clip.

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. The world does move. By next year, specialists tell us, further progress will be made in lessening the cost of harvesting cotton, by machinery. Mechanical cotton pickers have already been developed to the point where they do satisfactory work. One of the most promising ones has been built for both horse and power operation. It does little damage to the cotton plant. It is particularly well adapted for use where the cotton plants are big or where ripening takes a considerable time. Farmers in northwest Texas are also using cotton sleds or strippers and improvements in ginning machinery have made it possible for the ginner to handle cotton harvested mechanically.

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There are 20 cooperative cotton gins in northwest Texas which have been highly successful. Georgia and Alabama have also entered the cooperative ginning field. From 1912 to 1925 the number of cotton gins in the United States dropped from 28,358 to 18,262; but the total capacity of the cotton gins remained the same. In all probability, several thousand more gains may be abandoned during the next few years. The tendency is for gins to do a bigger individual business.

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In the U.S. Department's Technical Bulletin No. 57 on "Cooperative Marketing of Livestock in the United States by Terminal Associations" the need for a national service organization of livestock cooperatives is pointed out. Such an association would be designed to coordinate and strengthen the cooperative movement in livestock marketing. It would tend to eliminate the elements of competition among the various cooperative groups.

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And speaking of livestock, each year thousands of purebred dairy bull calves are slaughtered for veal, because there is no demand for them as breeders. Undoubtedly some of those calves are inferior and ought to be slaughtered, But most of them are far superior to the grade and scrub bulls that now herd three-fourths of the dairy herds of this country. This matter is briefly discussed in the new Department Leaflet No. 16, on "Purebred Dairy Sires".

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Any farmer or his boys can make a set of standard weights for testing the farm scales. The test weights can be made by filling ordinary glass bottles with shot or nails and closing them with corks and sealing wax. The "Bottle weights" can be checked with any standard test weight whose accuracy traces clearly to a Government standard, and can be used to occasionally test the farm scales. The home-made weights can be surprisingly accurate; much more so than the old battered metal weights or chunks of metal commonly used for such purposes, so a federal livestock weight supervisor recently declared.

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Reports of tuberculosis found in animals slaughtered under Federal inspection show that there is less than half as much tuberculosis in cattle shipped for slaughter as there was ten years ago.

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Government scientists have been experimenting with two of the wild tobacco varieties which sometimes cause the death of cattle and horses on ranges of the West and Southwest. They find when the animals are well fed they are unlikely to poison themselves on wild tobaccos. Like human tobacco users, the animals apparently acquire a tolerance for the wild tobaccos when taken in small doses.

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Some potato growers claim that the seed end of a potato is best for seed purposes. Others are equally insistent that the stem end is best for planting. There have been many attempts to demonstrate the superiority of each end. It is doubtful whether there is any real superiority of one end over the other for seed purposes. However, the data as a whole, seems to indicate that as the weight of the set increases there is greater response from the seed end than from the stem-end set. This is the conclusion of investigators of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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Timber is a long-time crop. To grow a stand of timber to merchantable size and to perpetuate the crop requires a far-sighted plan. Foresters and timber owners generally who are engaged in making and carrying out timber management plans may find useful information in Miscellaneous Publication No. 11, on "Management Plans."

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The Government is buying up some new national forest areas in the upper peninsula of Michigan. The greater part of the land in the upper peninsula is worth more for timber growing than for any other purpose, but before its forest value can be fully realized the best forest practices must be determined and demonstrated so that private owners may manage their properties with assurance and certainty. The Government will use depleted and burned over forest land in experiments to determine how such areas can best be made productive.

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The best way to prevent damage by house mice is to provide a proper place for food and other stored material. Clothing and rubbish are often stored in closets, basements, and attics. Some of it is left from year to year without being disturbed. It is in such material that mice live and breed. Clean up and burn the rubbish and trash that accumulates in buildings and in the yard and you will prevent rats as well as house mice from becoming established and doing damage in your house.

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The Civil Service Commission has announced an examination for chief of drug control in the Department of Agriculture. The job pays $5,200. The Commission has also announced examinations for Associate Agricultural Engineer at $3,000 a year, and Assistant Agricultural Engineer at $2,400 a year, and for Agricultural Editor at $3,000. Applications for these positions must be on file with the Commission not later than March 27.

The Commission has also announced examinations for Agricultural Economist, Associate Agricultural Economist and Assistant Agricultural

Economist in Cotton Marketing, at $3,800 to $5,000, $3,000 to $3,600 and $2,400 to $3,000 a year, respectively. Applications for these must be in not later than April 3. Further particulars about any or all of these jobs can be obtained from the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D.C.

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ANNOUNCEMENT: For the benefit of those who may be interested in getting some of the publications mentioned we will repeat the names and numbers:

"Cooperative Marketing of Livestock in the United States by Terminal Associations". Technical Bulletin No. 57.

"Purebred Dairy Sires" Leaflet No. 16.

"Timber "Management Plans" Miscellaneous Publication No. 11.

These publications can be obtained by application through this Station.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Radio Service

OFFICE OF INFORMATION

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FARM NEWS DIGEST

Sat. March, 24, 1928

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

ANNOUNCEMENT: Each week this Station presents the Farm News Digest prepared for us by the United States Department of Agriculture. This digest not only gives the latest findings and activities of the Department scientists, but also gives practical hints of use on the farm.

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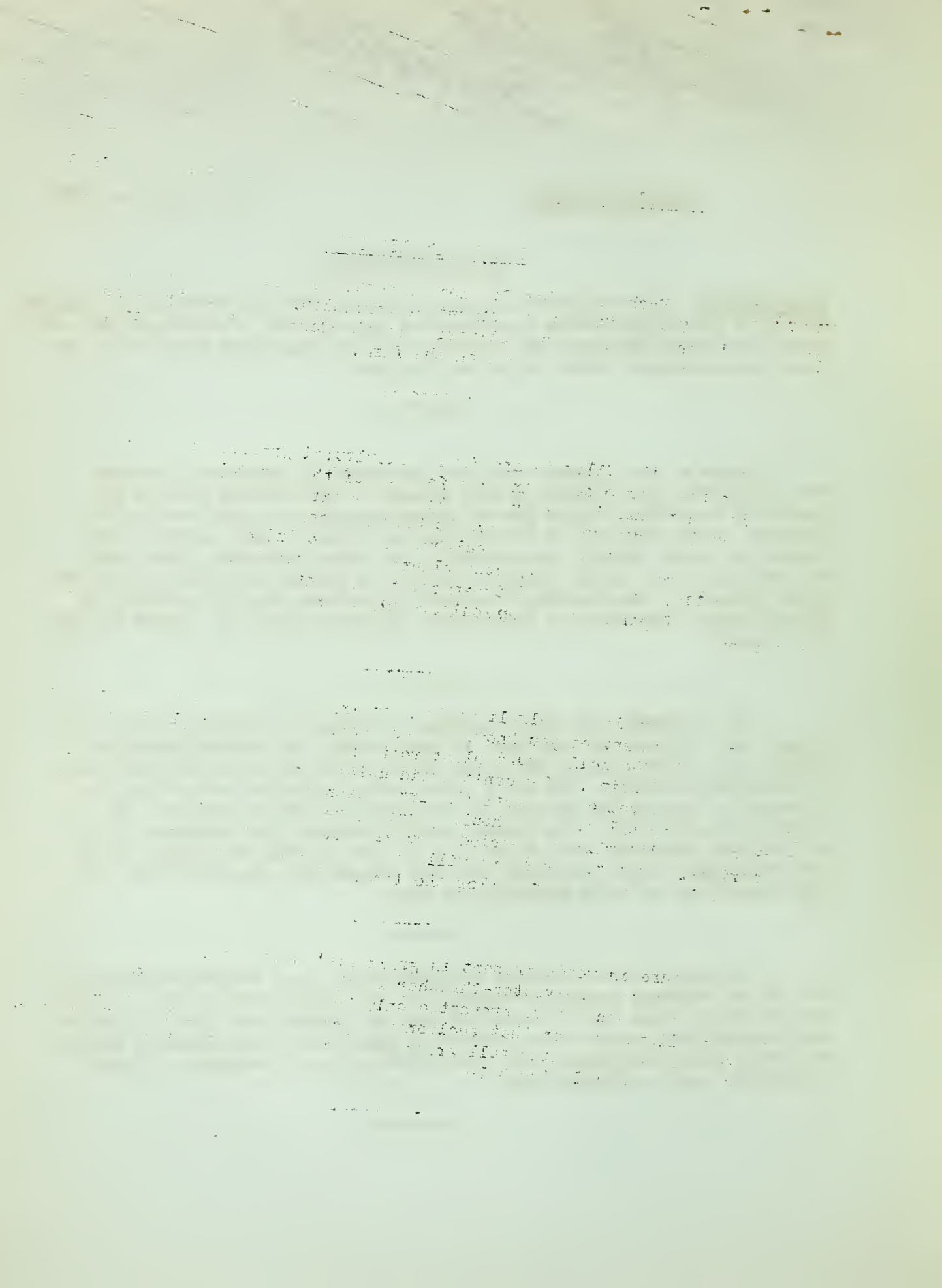
Tests at the Illinois and Iowa Agricultural Experiment Stations have shown that for 5 cents an acre farmers of the central part of the Corn Belt can reduce losses due to blight parasites on corn seed and so increase yields from one to twelve bushels an acre. Many high-yielding strains of corn, thought to be healthy, are often infected. Such seed may produce a poor stand, blighted plants, or plants that fail to grow and yield normally. The chemical treatment to prevent this is described in United States Department of Agriculture Circular Number 34., which has just been issued.

How to settle the alkali problem on irrigated fields has also been worked out. As many of you know, to your sorrow, the accumulations of alkali salt in the soil around plant roots is one of the serious drawbacks in irrigation farming. You can't avoid using irrigation water that contains salt, but you can operate the irrigation system so you will get rid of the damaging salts. You should provide drainage for irrigated fields so that the salts will be carried away as fast as they are brought in by the irrigation water. Leaching will not exhaust the plant food nor will the liberal use of water waterlog the land.

Moisture in weeds present in grain fields is a serious drawback to use of the combined harvester-thresher in the spring wheat States. Losses in very weedy grain can be prevented only by cleaning the grain. Department specialists suggest that recleaning apparatus be installed on the combine when grain containing tall green weeds is to be harvested. Better control of weeds will also help.



West Texas farmers have been going in for livestock feeding lately. Work at the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station has shown conclusively that sorgo silage and fodder are more satisfactory as roughages than cottonseed hulls when fed with ground milo heads and cottonseed meal to fattening calves. The sorgo may cost a very little more. However, cattle that make the biggest gains, other things being equal, have the highest finish and bring higher prices. Higher sales prices usually offset any increased cost of gain.

In recent years, scientists discovered that the length of day has a much greater influence on the seeding and fruiting of plants than previously thought. By the use of dark rooms and electric lights to artificially control the normal daylight period they have demonstrated the importance of length of day.

Mt. Kenya, Africa, is in the tropics, practically on the Equator. But its top is 17,000 feet high and snow covered. Now, plant explorers have returned from Africa with grasses which grew on Mt. Kenya under conditions of low temperature and 12 hour days and nights. Seed from these grasses will be tested out in this country. New grasses to lengthen the season of green pastures and meadows would be a big factor in reducing the cost of raising livestock in the United States.

Now, if you would like to test this importance of light for yourself, just get some small plants of poinsettia or grow some plants of Klondyke cosmos in spring. Keep them in a very dark, ventilated room or warm, dark cellar, giving them the sunlight each day from 6 in the morning until three o'clock in the afternoon. In about a month, they will flower out of season, and prove of no little interest to all who see them and learn how you did it.

Department chemists are analyzing various proteins. Protein is not merely protein to a chemist. Proteins are generally somewhat alike but differ in the amino acids they contain. One has more of one amino acid and another has less. Corn protein, for instance, lacks certain amino acids needed for the healthy development of animals. But when the chemists get through with their analyses, it will be possible to advise feeders what combinations of feeds should prove effective, so their animals will get the proper amounts of the proper kinds of protein.

Feeding tests long ago showed that pigs make the cheapest gains when "crowded" from the time they begin to eat until ready for market. The shorter feeding period lessens the feed needed and reduces the chances for disease.

Another reason for the practice of finishing pigs within six months is that March pigs will be ready for market before the seasonal drop in prices which usually comes about the first of September. The experience of the ton-litter producers in the 1927 hog raising contest demonstrated that.

Within the last year and a half, eight new parasitic worms have been discovered in domestic and wild birds in North America. Chickens, turkeys, geese, domestic pigeons, carrier pigeons, wild geese, wild ducks, ruffed grouse, and quail have been found suffering from disease conditions produced by these parasites. Worse than that, these findings suggest that the part played by these parasites has been considerably underestimated and that other parasitic worms or nematodes will be found in this country.

Another bit of news from the farm under-world is also alarming. The indications are that the Fall Army Worm, now permanent resident only in the warmer parts of the South, may develop a hardy strain that may be able to survive more rigorous climates. The Fall Army Worm may then become a permanent resident farther North instead of merely a migrant as at present. The fall army worm is a pest of the first order in the Southern States and does much damage every year. It attacks corn, cotton, alfalfa, crabgrass, millet, sorghum and other field and garden crops.

Rats cause losses amounting to $200,000,000 each year in the United States. Red squill, relatively harmless to other animals, will kill rats readily. It is an ideal rat poison for use on farms and in many places in towns or cities where there may be danger of poisoning beneficial animals.

In the early days of mushroom growing in this country there were no reports of serious trouble caused by fungous diseases. Now, however, two of the diseases which for years have produced big losses in mushroom growers of Europe are well established here. They are very hard to control, but the measures to take are pointed out in a new Department Circular No. 27.

Other State tobacco marketing officials are considering the use of the Federal State tobacco grading service which proved so successful at the Richmond, Virginia, market the past season.

Success in marketing strawberries is dependent to a large extent upon the proper picking, grading, and packing of the berries. How these things should be done is told in Farmers' Bulletin No. 1560 on "Preparing Strawberries for Market."

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ANNOUNCEMENT: Did you get the number of that Bulletin? It was Farmers' Bulletin No. 1560 on "Preparing Strawberries for Market." You can get it by application through this station. That Circular on Mushrooms is called "Some Mushroom Diseases and their Carriers". It is Circular No. 27. Circular No. 34 was the one on chemical treatment of corn seed. It is called "Chemical-Dust Seed Treatment for Dent Corn."

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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FARM NEWS DIGEST

Sat. March 31, 1928

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

ANNOUNCEMENT: Each week this Station presents the Farm News Digest prepared for us by the United States Department of Agriculture. This digest not only gives the latest findings and activities of the Department scientists, but also gives practical hints of use on the farm.

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The twenty-fifth anniversary of the beginning of the Government's farm demonstration work will be celebrated at College Station, Texas, next February. The idea of supervised demonstrations carried on by farmers on their own farms grew out of efforts to fight the cotton boll weevil. In 1906 the first agent was hired to work in one county in Texas. Now there are one or more farm demonstration agents in each of 2,000 counties, throughout the United States. In fact, there are more than 5,000 tachnically trained persons now engaged in farm demonstration work.

Simple rules for taking care of the dairy cow that is about to freshen are contained in a new Leaflet, No. 10, just issued by the department of agriculture. It is called "Care of the Dairy Cow at Calving Time."

Nowadays a considerable number of ranchmen want to sell their cattle at home. Also a considerable number of Corn Belt feeders want to buy their stock direct from the range. As a result, direct buying of feeder cattle is on the increase. Direct buying cuts out terminal market expense and the cattle reach the feed yard in better condition. Not only that, but it tends to cut out speculation in livestock marketing and develops better understanding between producers and feeders. It has the drawbacks of chances for delay and shrinkage in transit, and possible lack of uniformity in size and quality of animals purchased.

Ticky cattle can't be shipped inter-state after April 30. The shipment of ticky cattle for immediate slaughter has been permitted for many years. Under new regulations, however, all cattle moved from the area quarantined for Texas or tick fever must be dipped and certified as tick free. The new regulations are contained in Bureau of Animal Industry Order No. 309. The regulations to prevent the spread of scabies in cattle and sheep, hog cholera, swine plague, and other communicable hog diseases, and tuberculosis in cattle are not much changed.

Cooperative livestock commission associations operating at terminal markets since 1917 have saved farmers about $5,000,000 in reduced commissions and in amounts paid back as cash refunds. That doesn't count many other services, not so easily measured.

The Bureau of Agricultural Economics is making a detailed study of produce market practices. This survey will be used as a foundation for the administration of the Produce Agency Act. The Produce Agency Act makes it unlawful for commission men or other agents handling consigned produce in interstate commerce to make false returns, fraudulent reports, or to dump produce which has commercial value.

About three million American farmers operate land which they do not own. Many of these rented farms are leased orally. Often there are no written memoranda of any kind. That is a good way to start trouble. Plenty of it is started just that way. Of course, having written leases will not cut out all squabbles between landlords and tenants. But full and clear understanding set down on paper in definite shape will save much hard feeling and prevent many bad bargains. Written leases are a big help toward harmony. Usually it is best for the contracting parties to write their own lease. However, where considerable values are involved, it may be well to get the advice and assistance of a lawyer. That may save calling him in later on.

State and Federal workers report considerable progress in their search for ways to avoid the tomato yellows, or the western yellow blight of tomatoes, as some folks used to call it. The tomato yellows are spread by the beet leafhopper, the same disease carrying insect that spreads the curly top disease of sugar beets. The tomato yellows has been reduced, in experimental plantings, by shading the plants, either with tents or by interplanting with a tall, fast-growing crop such as sunflowers. The experimenters are also trying to develop tomato plants that will resist the tomato yellows. It is hoped that the combined efforts of the various investigators will lead to the discovery of preventive measures as will permit raising tomatoes even where such a thing is now practically impossible on account of the yellows.

Oat smuts in this country cause an average loss of nearly forty-nine million bushels of oats a year. But this big loss in oat yields can be almost wholly prevented simply by dipping, spraying, or sprinkling the seed with a formaldehyde solution a short time before sowing. One pint of formaldehyde, which you can get at any drug store, is enough to treat 50 bushels of seed oats.

Federal scientists have investigated the role played by plant disease in clover failure. "Clover failure" has been blamed for the inability of red clover to hold its place in the American farming system. Now, the scientists find that the most important disease which causes red clover failure is due to two fungi and they are trying to develop new strains of clover which will be resistant to the attack of these parasites.

Fifteen years ago, less than ten per cent of the world's supply of nitrogen for fertilizers was derived from the air by chemical means. Today, more than half of the world's supply is made up of such synthetic nitrogen salts.

Woods burning drags down business and undermines the general prosperity of the South, says Chief Greeley of the U. S. Forest Service. Because of the woods burner, millions of young forest trees which soon would have been an asset to the landowners have been licked up by the flames. It has been conclusively shown that range which has been burned regularly can not pasture as much stock as formerly. Such valuable forage plants as switch cane, lespedeza, and carpet grass are run out by repeated fires. As for fires destroying cattle ticks, the only method known for getting rid of ticks is systematic dipping of the cattle.

The Civil Service Commission has announced an examination for assistant agronomist in the Bureau of Plant Industry at $2,400 to $3,000 a year. Applications for this job must be on file with the Commission not later than April 17. Further information in regard to this position can be obtained from the Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C.

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ANNOUNCEMENT: That Leaflet on the care of the dairy cow at calving time is Leaflet No. 10. You can get it through this Station. You can also get three radio bulletins on the business of farming. One deals with farm management, another deals with marketing farm products, and the third deals with the cooperative marketing movement. Just send us your name if you wish any or all of them. They are free to our radio listeners.

ity of them. Each is free to go into itself.